

A SHOCKINGLY SMART COMIC. -- COMICS ALLIANCE

MEGA MAN™

FLYNN
JAMPOLE
MARTIN

Archie
ACTION!
ARCHIECOMICS.COM

CAPCOM

MEGA MAN™ | 53



IN THE YEAR 20XX, A SUPER ROBOT NAMED MEGA MAN HAS PLEDGED TO STOP THE EVIL DESIRES OF DR. WILY AND PROTECT THE WORLD. MEGA MAN NOW FIGHTS ALONGSIDE HIS FELLOW ROBOT MASTERS TO DEFEAT THE FORCES OF EVIL!



CHARACTER
= SELECT =



MEGA MAN
BLUE BOMBER



DR. THOMAS
LIGHT
MEGA MAN'S CREATOR



DR. ALBERT
WILY
"DECEASED" EVIL GENIUS



MR. X
MYSTERIOUS LEADER OF
THE X CORPORATION

MEGA MAN™

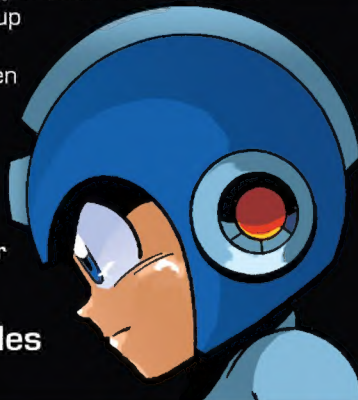
PREVIOUSLY...

BLUE HERO!

Mega Man was originally built as Rock, robotic son and lab assistant to **Dr. Light!** When **Dr. Wily** tried to conquer the world, Mega Man chose to be weaponized so that he could fight for peace and save everyone!

But now the battle is over. As far as Mega Man knows, **Dr. Wily is dead.** The members of the terrorist group called the **Emerald Spears** have all been arrested. Their leader, **Xander Payne**, has vanished...

What does a super fighting robot do when there are **no more battles to be won...?**



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MEGA CITY...

HURRY, RUSH!
GUTS
MAN IS IN
DANGER!

MEGA MAN
THE BLUE BOMBER

RUSH JET
TRANSFORMING
ROBO-DOG

BLUE SHIFT

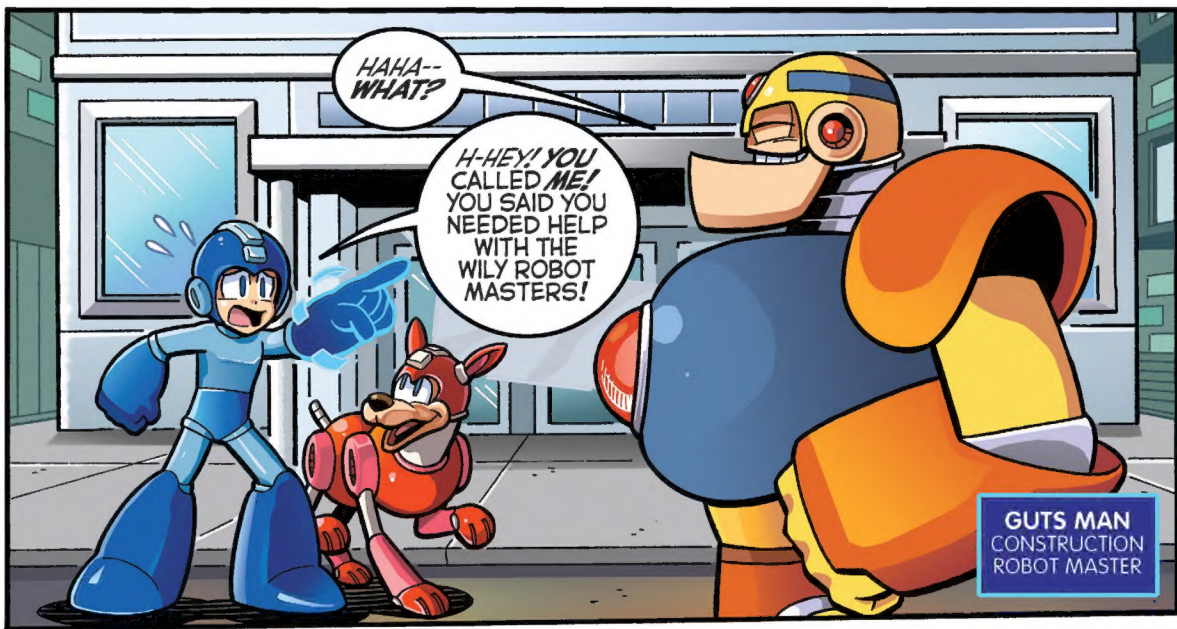


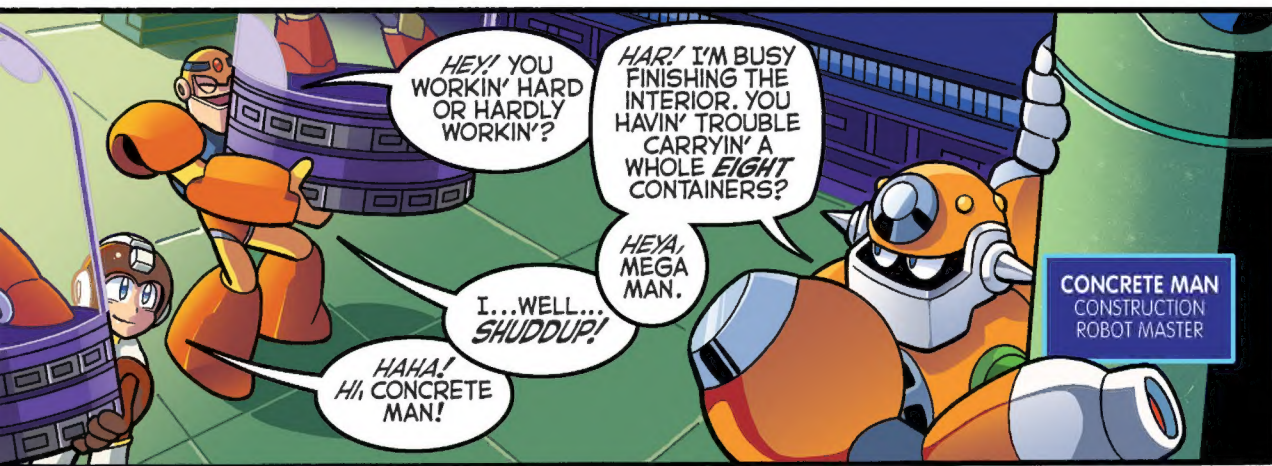
HOLD
IT! PUT
DOWN YOUR
WEAPONS
AND--!



BWAH
HA HA HA!
WHAT'RE YOU
DOIN'?!

...COMING
TO YOUR
RESCUE?





HEY! YOU WORKIN' HARD OR HARDLY WORKIN'?

HAR! I'M BUSY FINISHING THE INTERIOR. YOU HAVIN' TROUBLE CARRYIN' A WHOLE EIGHT CONTAINERS?

HEYA, MEGA MAN.

I...WELL... SHUDDUP!

HAHA! HI, CONCRETE MAN!

CONCRETE MAN
CONSTRUCTION
ROBOT MASTER



I KNEW MEGS COULD HELP ME DO THE JOB FASTER! WORK SMARTER, NOT HARDER!

YEAH, 'CAUSE BOTH OF THESE ARE TOUGH FOR YOU!

OOOH! KEEP IT UP, DRIPPY, AND I WON'T LEAVE ENOUGH OF YOU TO BE DISPLAYED HERE!

GOOD THING YOU GOT A BIG JAW FOR ALL THEM BIG WORDS!

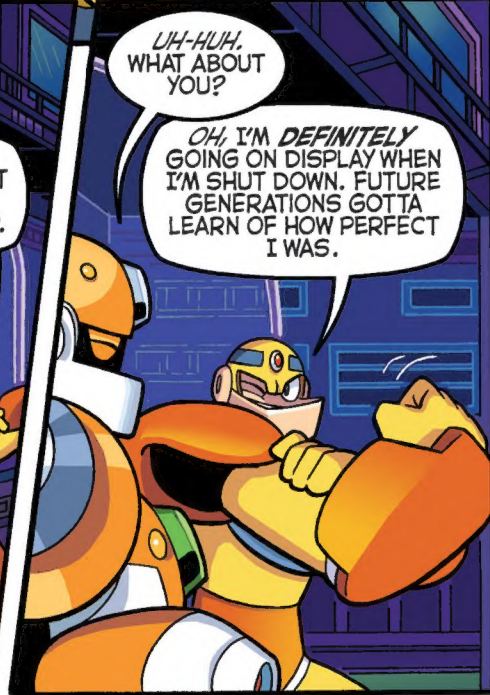


HA HA HA! HA



SERIOUSLY, THO'--I THINK I'D RATHER BE RECYCLED WHEN MY TIME'S UP. WASTE TAKES SPACE, AND I HATE WASTE.

YOU SAY THAT NOW. JUST WAIT 'TIL YOUR WARRANTY'S UP.



UH-HUH. WHAT ABOUT YOU?

OH, I'M DEFINITELY GOING ON DISPLAY WHEN I'M SHUT DOWN. FUTURE GENERATIONS GOTTA LEARN OF HOW PERFECT I WAS.



WHAT?!



HOW CAN YOU TALK ABOUT BEING DECOMMISSIONED LIKE THAT?!

THE KID TOOK THE DEACTIVATIN' OF THE WILY BOTS PRETTY HARD.

AH.



WE'RE TOOLS, KID. TOOLS BREAK. I'LL SERVE MY FUNCTION, AND WHEN I'M DONE--I'M *DONE*.



YOU DON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT IT, THO'. YOU'RE DOC LIGHT'S *SON*. THAT FUNCTION LASTS AS LONG AS HE DOES, AND THEN YOU BECOME HIS LEGACY.



I'M NOT WORRIED ABOUT *ME!* I WORRY FOR *YOU* AND *ALL* THE ROBOT MASTERS! *EVERY* LIFE IS PRECIOUS!

WE AIN'T ALIVE, THO'. WE'RE JUST "LIFE-LIKE."



THAT DOESN'T MATTER TO ME! I *HATED* FIGHTING AND DAMAGING YOU!

"AND I WOULD'VE SAVED DR. WILY IF I COULD!"

THE X COMPOUND--
LOCATION UNKNOWN.

YOU KNOW... I SAVED YOU FROM THE BRINK OF DEATH. MENDED YOUR BROKEN BODY. GAVE YOU THE TOOLS TO BUILD ARMIES AND ROBOT MASTERS...

...AND YOU USE IT ALL TO KIDNAP LITTLE GIRLS?!

JUST THE ONE.

MADAM Y
MR. X'S SECOND IN COMMAND

WHO YOU THEN FOISTED ON ME. I AM *NOT* A NANNY.

MR. X
WILY'S BENEFACTOR

DR. WILY
MAD SCIENTIST

OH, BUT YOU DO SUCH A GOOD JOB LOOKING AFTER MR. X HERE! JUST GET HER A JUICE BOX AND TURN ON SOME CARTOONS OR SOMETHING.

SHE'S KEY TO JUST *ONE* OF MY *MANY* BRILLIANT SCHEMES! YOU CAN'T CRITIQUE MY MASTER PLAN WHEN WE'RE BARELY PAST PHASE ONE!

⇒SIGH⇒ PLEASE LOOK AFTER THE GIRL FOR NOW.

BY YOUR COMMAND, SIR.

HEH-HEH-HEH... YOU RUN A TIGHT SHIP HERE.

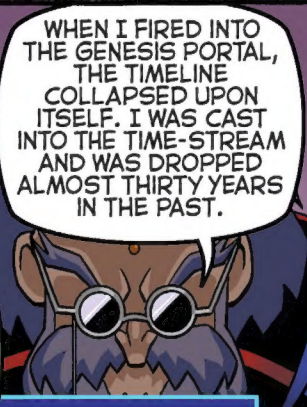
MUCH BETTER THAN YOU RAN THE EMERALD SPEARS--EH, KANDER PAYNE?



HMPH, HOW LONG HAVE YOU KNOWN?

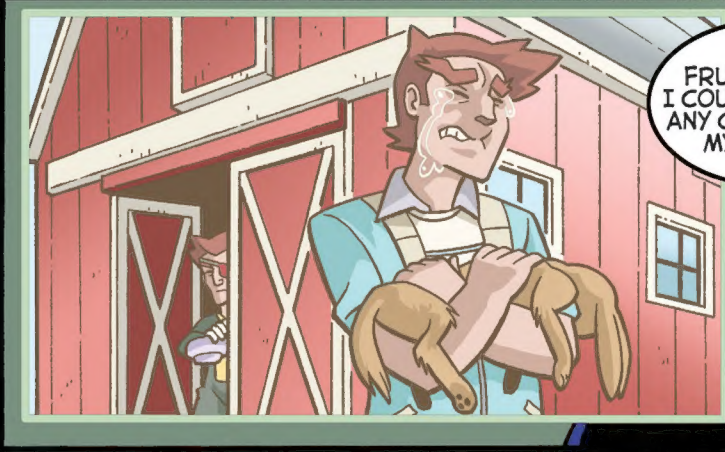
I PUT IT TOGETHER AFTER...WELL, WHATEVER THAT SPACE-TIME ANOMALY WAS.X

MY MEMORY IS HAZY AT BEST. ALL I'M MISSING IS THE "HOW."

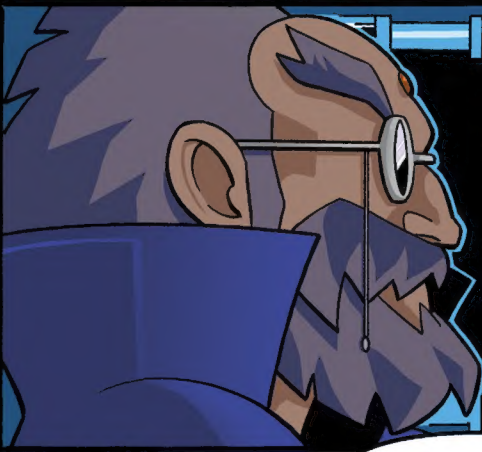


WHEN I FIRED INTO THE GENESIS PORTAL, THE TIMELINE COLLAPSED UPON ITSELF. I WAS CAST INTO THE TIME-STREAM AND WAS DROPPED ALMOST THIRTY YEARS IN THE PAST.

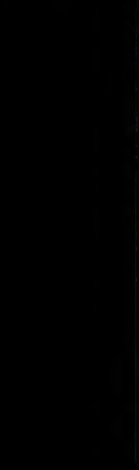
*MM #52-WORLDS UNITE PT.12.



TO MY FRUSTRATION, I COULDN'T MAKE ANY CHANGES TO MY PAST...



...BUT I COULD PLOT A NEW COURSE FOR MY *NEW* LIFE. LOTTERIES, STOCK MARKETS, GAMBLING ON HISTORIC LONG-SHOTS-- I USED MY MEMORIES OF THE PAST TO FUND THE X CORPORATION AND BRING ME TO *THIS* POINT IN TIME.



"XANDER PAYNE" NO LONGER EXISTS! THERE IS ONLY "MR. X"! FREE OF MY OLD PAST, I WILL CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY TO THE *LEGENDARY* FUTURE I'VE SEEN!



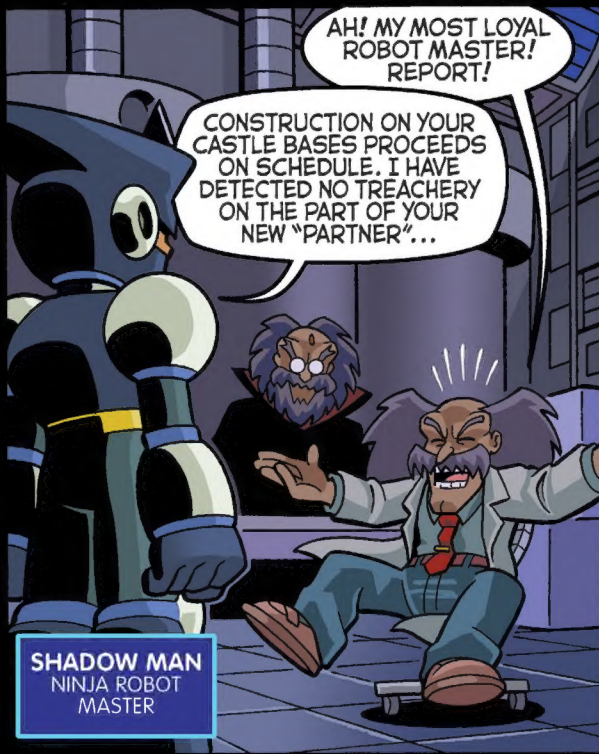
ONE WHERE MAN IS NO LONGER MENACED BY MACHINES!

BWOOP!

IMPRESSIVE!
BRILLIANT,
EVEN!

*PRESUMING YOU'RE
RIGHT, YOU LUNATIC.
STILL, IT GIVES SOME
CREDENCE TO ONE OF
MY RISKIER PLANS...*

MASTER
WILY.



AH! MY MOST LOYAL
ROBOT MASTER!
REPORT!

CONSTRUCTION ON YOUR
CASTLE BASES PROCEEDS
ON SCHEDULE. I HAVE
DETECTED NO TREACHERY
ON THE PART OF YOUR
NEW "PARTNER"...

SHADOW MAN
NINJA ROBOT
MASTER



...AND THE WORLD STILL
BELIEVES YOU TO BE DEAD.
NO ONE WILL BE PREPARED
FOR YOUR RETURN.

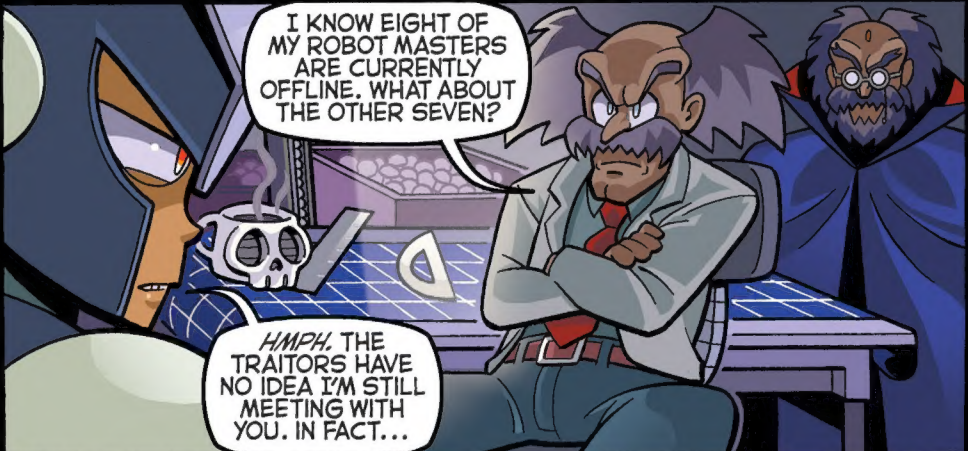
HA HA HA!
EXCELLENT!



DON'T LEAVE
ME HANGING.
THAT'S AN
ORDER.



CLAP!



I KNOW EIGHT OF
MY ROBOT MASTERS
ARE CURRENTLY
OFFLINE. WHAT ABOUT
THE OTHER SEVEN?

HMPH. THE
TRAITORS HAVE
NO IDEA I'M STILL
MEETING WITH
YOU. IN FACT...

"...THEY'VE ALL ADJUSTED TO THEIR NEW FUNCTIONS."

TEN MILES ABOVE MEGA CITY...

WELL? I CAN'T CONTINUE MY METEOROLOGICAL STUDIES IF THE GAUGES KEEP FREEZING UP.

HMM...LOOKS LIKE IT'S SIMPLY CONDENSATION FREEZING AT THIS ALTITUDE.

AIR MAN
AIR-MANIPULATING
ROBOT MASTER

ICE MAN
ICE-MANIPULATING
ROBOT MASTER

WELL, CAN'T YOU DE-ICE IT? YOU'RE "ICE MAN," FOR LIGHT'S SAKE!

THE SAME WAY YOU DE-AIR STUFF, AIR MAN?

ALL THIS MEANS IS THERE'S AN ANTIFREEZE LEAK SOMEWHERE. I'LL LOOK INTO IT.





SEE HOW BAD IT IS? I DIVERTED MOST OF IT HERE, BUT IT KEEPS COMING.

AREN'T YOU GLAD DOC LIGHT BUILT US FOR SUCH *GLAMOROUS* JOBS? SERIOUSLY, THO'--THIS IS SOME NASTY OIL.

PUMP MAN
WATER MAINTENANCE
ROBOT MASTER

OIL MAN
OIL MANAGING
ROBOT MASTER

*MEGA CITY--
SEWERS...*

I'M THINKIN' SOME AUTO SHOP IS DUMPIN' IT ILLEGALLY.

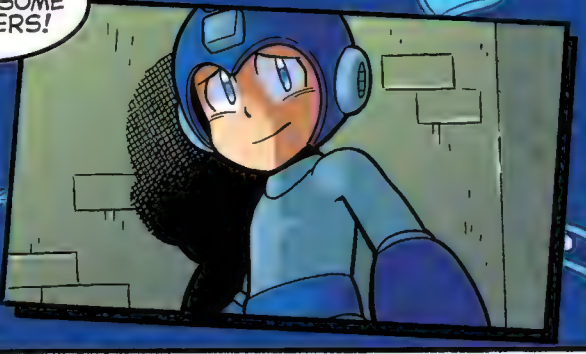
BUBBLE MAN
AMPHIBIOUS
ROBOT MASTER

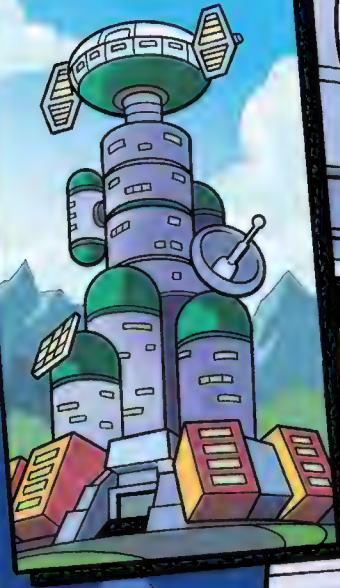
SPLASH WOMAN
AQUATIC ROBOT
MASTER



WE'LL SEE IF WE CAN FIND THE SOURCE.

YEAH! TIME TO BUST SOME POLLUTERS!





... MEANING WE'D HAVE TO **STOP** THE TACHYON BOMBARDMENT, NOT **SLOW** IT! I REALIZE YOU'RE AN EARLY TEST MODEL, BUT **TRY** TO KEEP UP!

WHAT YOU'RE **FAILING** TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT IS THE INVERSE EFFECT IT WILL HAVE ON GRAVITON LEVELS! OR DO YOU WANT TO IRRADIATE THE TIME SKIMMER?!

$$t = \frac{-v_0 \pm \sqrt{v_0^2 - 4\left(\frac{1}{2}\alpha\right)(-d)}}{2\left(\frac{1}{2}\alpha\right)}$$

FLASH MAN
TIME-
STOPPING
ROBOT
MASTER

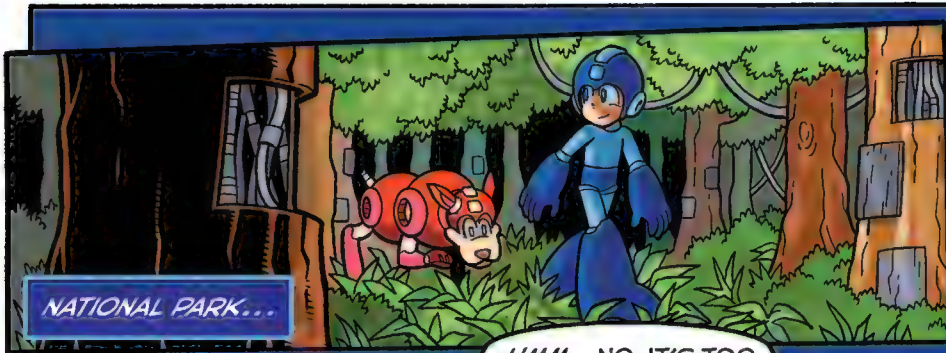
TIME
MAN
TIME-
SLOWING
ROBOT
MASTER

SLOWING THE TACHYONS *WOULD* KEEP THE INVERSION LOW...

STOPPING THEM IN A SOLID-STATE FIELD *AROUND* THE TIME SKIMMER *WOULD* DECREASE TEMPORAL DRAG...

A COMPROMISE THEN? AGREED.





NATIONAL PARK...

HMM... NO, IT'S TOO SICK. THIS ONE WILL HAVE TO BE FELLED AND REPLACED WITH A SYNTHETIC TREE.

DON'T SOUND SAD, SIR. THIS HAS BEEN HERE FOR HUNDREDS OF YEARS.

IT'S NOT LIKE WE'RE *TRUNK-CATING* ITS LIFE!

CUT MAN
FORESTRY
ROBOT MASTER

WOOD MAN
ARBOREAL
ROBOT MASTER



JUST WHEN I THOUGHT YOU'D RUN OUT OF TREE-RELATED PUNS...

HEY! IF A TREE FALLS IN THE WOODS, AND THERE ISN'T A ROBOT AROUND, IS THERE AN AUDIO SAMPLE TO PROCESS?

≡SIGH≡



SNICKER



MY SEARCH SNAKES ARE REPORTING IN. THE FIRST SECTOR IS LEVEL. SECTOR TWO STILL NEEDS TO BE REDUCED BY ONE DEGREE.

IT SHOULDN'T TAKE LONG. WE CAN PROCEED TO CLEARING THE NEXT SECTOR.

MY APOLOGIES. I'LL GET RIGHT ON IT.

HARD MAN
GROUND-LEVELING
ROBOT
MASTER

SNAKE MAN
SURVEYING
ROBOT
MASTER

AWESOME. Y'KNOW, YOU'RE PRETTY USEFUL WHEN YOU'RE NOT BEING CREEPY.

BOMB MAN
DEMOLITIONS
ROBOT
MASTER

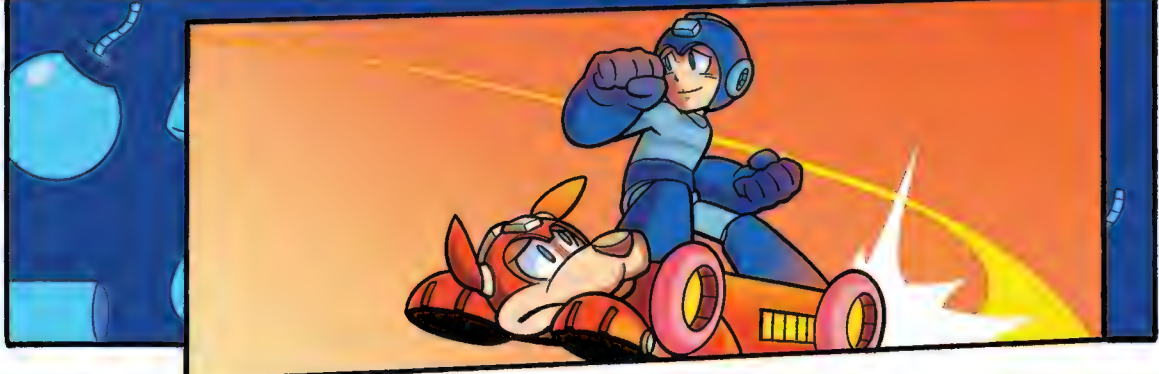


ME? CREEPY? WHATEVER DO YOU MEAN?

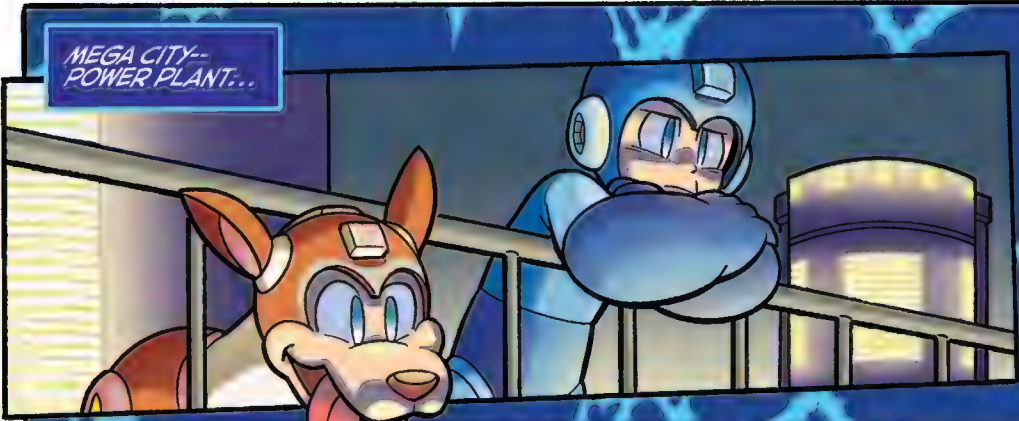
I MEAN, WHEN YOU--



GAH! GET IT OFF! GET IT OFF!



MEGA CITY--
POWER PLANT...



ALMOST
DONE HERE.
HOW ARE YOU
HOLDING
UP?

SPARK MAN
ELECTRICITY-
CONTROLLING
ROBOT
MASTER

OH, I'M
JUST FINE!
I CAN KEEP
BOTH OF THESE
RUNNING ALL
NIGHT IF I
HAVE TO!



ELEC MAN
POWER
REGULATING
ROBOT
MASTER

THERE!
THE REPAIRS
ARE COMPLETE,
AND WITH ZERO
POWER-
LOSS TO THE CITY.
NICE WORK.

HEE
HEE!
THANKS!
YOU,
TOO!



MEGA CITY--WASTE
PROCESSING CENTER...

... SO I CHECKED IN
ON ALL OF DR. LIGHT'S
ROBOT MASTERS, AND
ALL THE REFORMED
WILY BOTS, AND THEY'RE
ALL DOING GREAT.

I DIDN'T WANT
TO INTERRUPT
THEM. I JUST
WANTED TO SEE
IF THEY WERE
HAPPY.

YEAH...

WERE
THEY?

FIRE MAN
INCINERATOR
ROBOT MASTER

THEY ALL SEEM SO
CONTENT IN THEIR
FUNCTIONS. SO WHY
CAN'T I FEEL THE
SAME WAY?

I WAS ORIGINALLY BUILT
FOR PEACEFUL FUNCTIONS.
BUT I'M NOT SURE I *WANT*
TO STOP BEING MEGA MAN.
DOES THAT MEAN I CAN'T
BE HAPPY UNLESS I'M
FIGHTING?

DO I *HAVE* TO
DO WHAT I HATE
SO I CAN FEEL
FULFILLED?

LISTEN HERE,
PARDNER. IT ISN'T
THE FIGHTING THAT
SUSTAINS YOU. IT'S
HELPING PEOPLE.

I'M THINKIN' YOU'RE
AFRAID YOU WON'T BE
ABLE TO HELP EVERYONE
IF YOU'RE NOT MEGA
MAN ANYMORE.

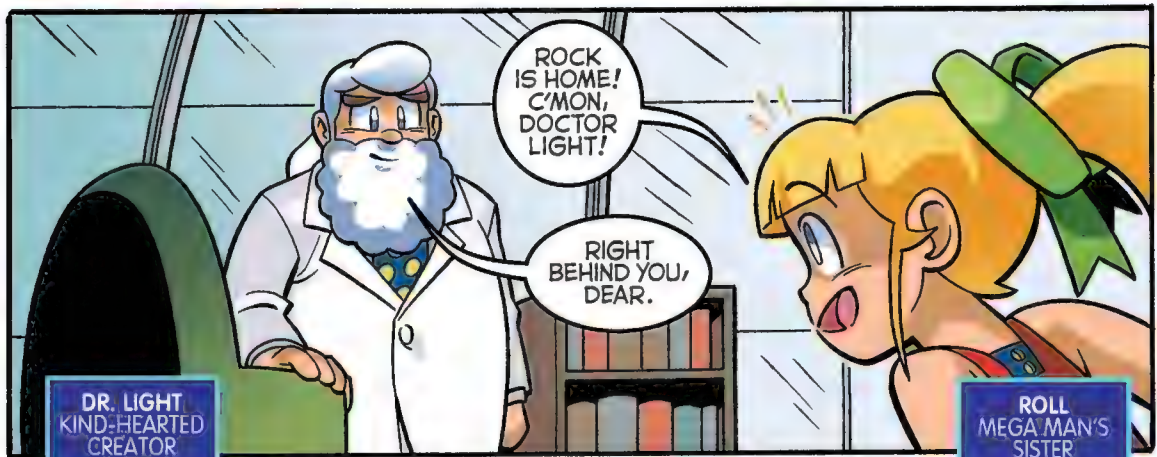
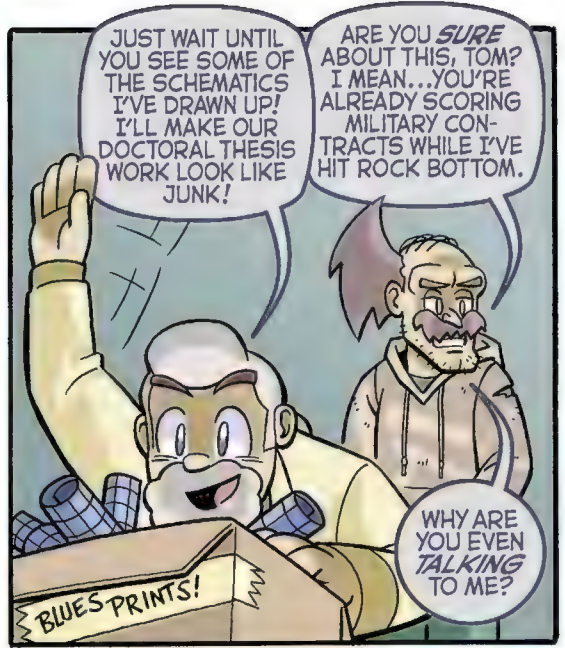
BUT YOUR FIGHTIN'
IS OVER. YOU'VE
BROUGHT JUSTICE
TO THE WORLD.

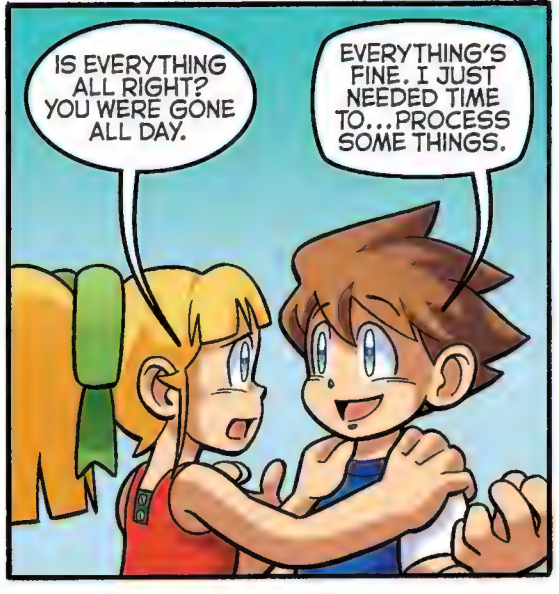
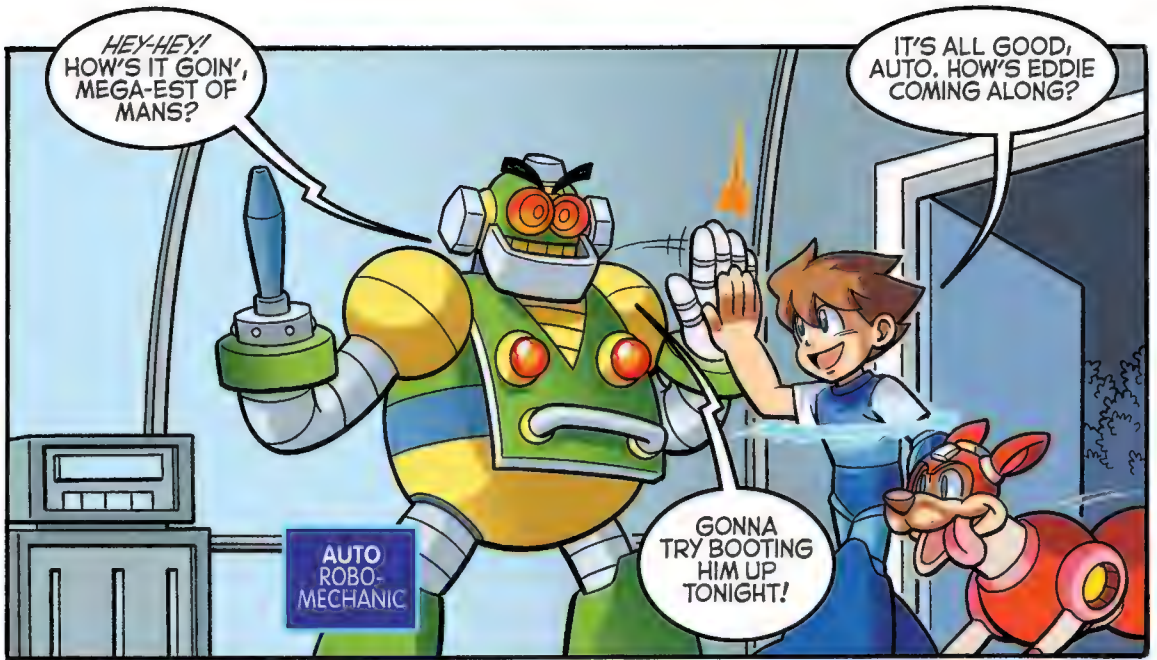
IT'S OKAY FOR YOU
TO HANG UP THE
ARMOR NOW. YOU
CAN BRING ABOUT
A BETTER FUTURE
WITH DR. LIGHT
AS ROCK.

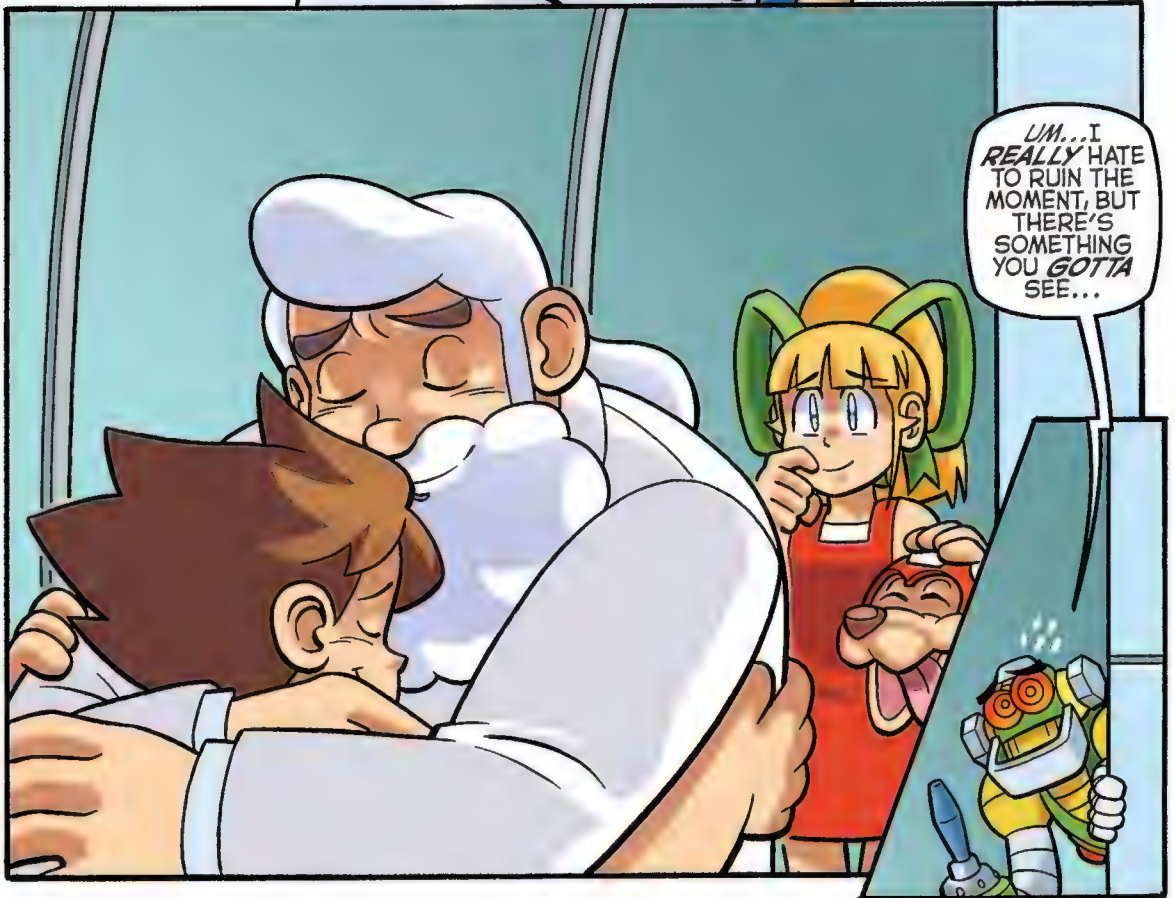
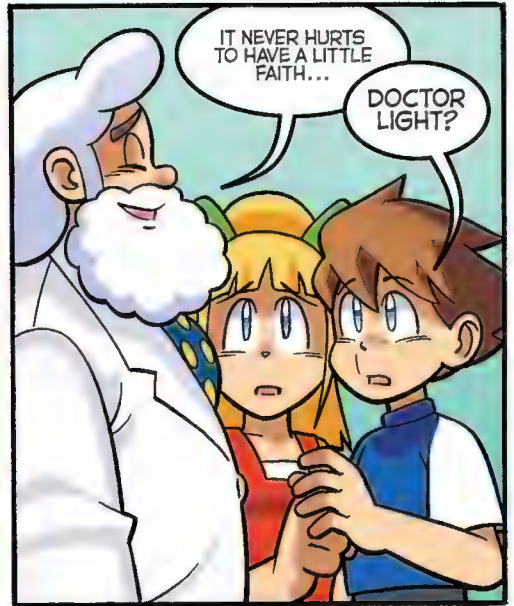
THANKS, FIRE MAN.
I REALLY OUGHT TO
HANG OUT WITH YOU
MORE OFTEN.

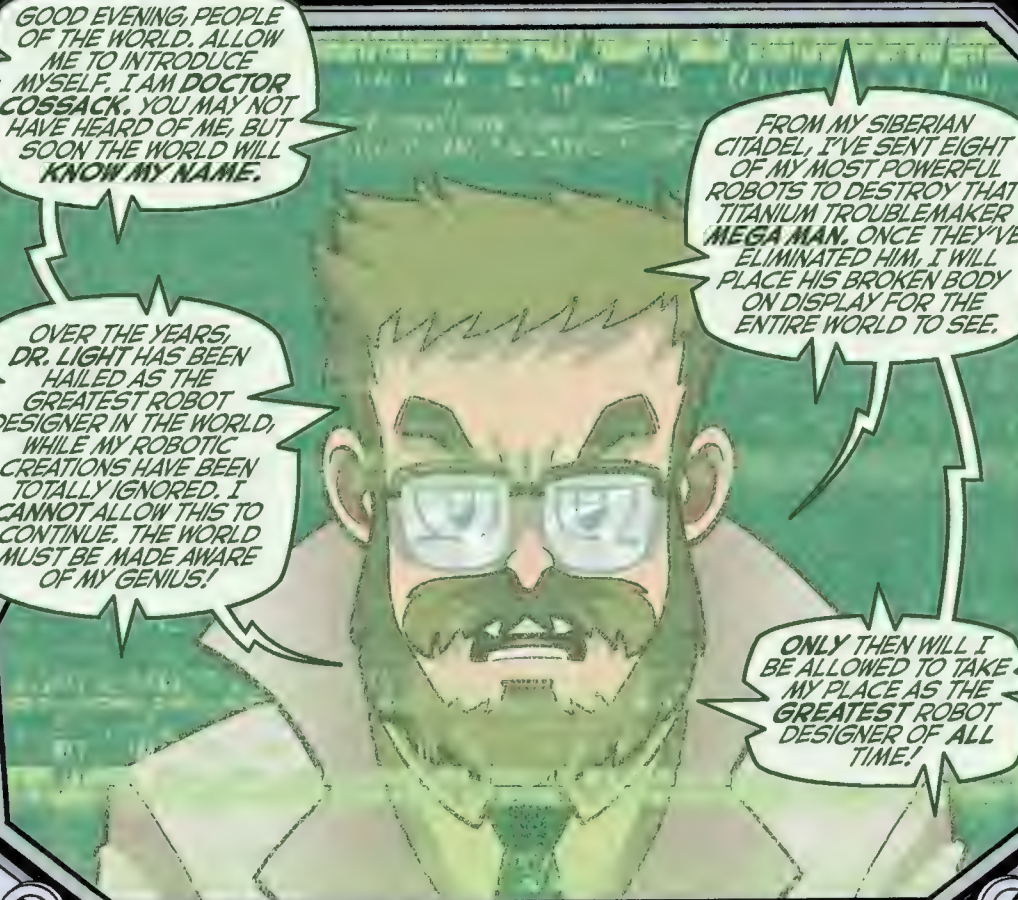
THAT'D BE FINE
BY ME. NOW, YOU
GET ON BACK TO
LIGHT LABS...

...I'M SURE DOCTOR LIGHT NEEDS SOME REASSURING TOO.







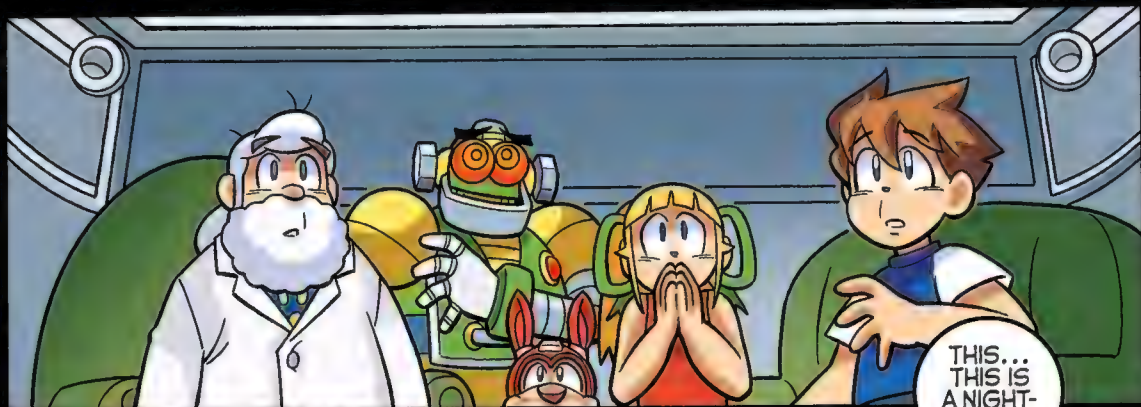


GOOD EVENING, PEOPLE OF THE WORLD. ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF. I AM DOCTOR COSSACK. YOU MAY NOT HAVE HEARD OF ME, BUT SOON THE WORLD WILL KNOW MY NAME.

FROM MY SIBERIAN CITADEL, I'VE SENT EIGHT OF MY MOST POWERFUL ROBOTS TO DESTROY THAT TITANIUM TROUBLEMAKER MEGA MAN. ONCE THEY'VE ELIMINATED HIM, I WILL PLACE HIS BROKEN BODY ON DISPLAY FOR THE ENTIRE WORLD TO SEE.

OVER THE YEARS, DR. LIGHT HAS BEEN HAILED AS THE GREATEST ROBOT DESIGNER IN THE WORLD, WHILE MY ROBOTIC CREATIONS HAVE BEEN TOTALLY IGNORED. I CANNOT ALLOW THIS TO CONTINUE. THE WORLD MUST BE MADE AWARE OF MY GENIUS!

ONLY THEN WILL I BE ALLOWED TO TAKE MY PLACE AS THE GREATEST ROBOT DESIGNER OF ALL TIME!





YES...YES, IT IS.

"TITANIUM TROUBLEMAKER"...
"YOU ALWAYS LIKED YOUR ALLITERATION"...

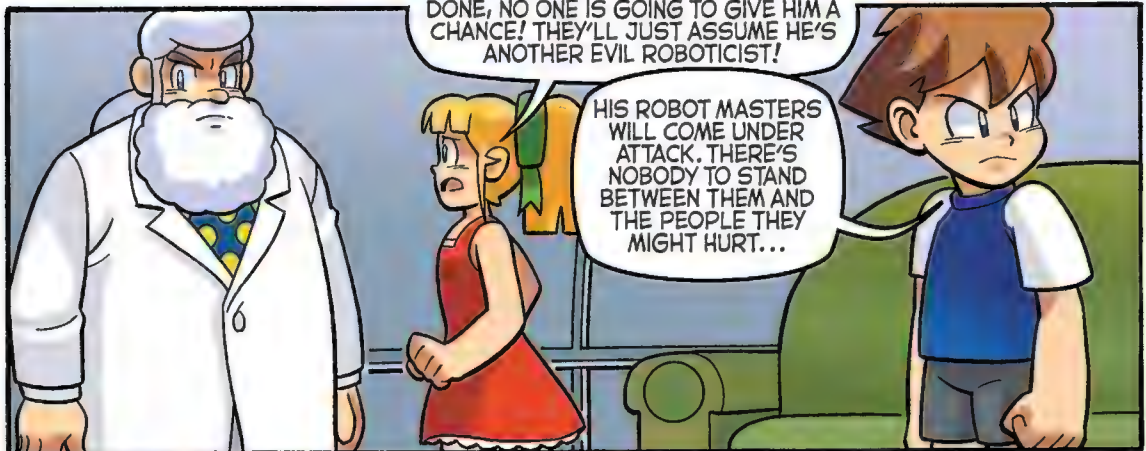
DOCTOR LIGHT?
HAVE YOU FIGURED SOMETHING OUT?



NO...BUT I HAVE MY SUSPICIONS. MIKHAIL IS THE HUMBLEST MAN I'VE EVER MET. THIS DOESN'T SOUND LIKE HIM AT ALL.

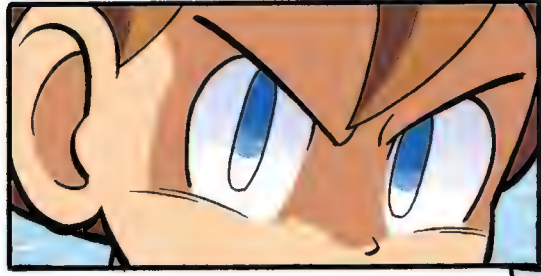
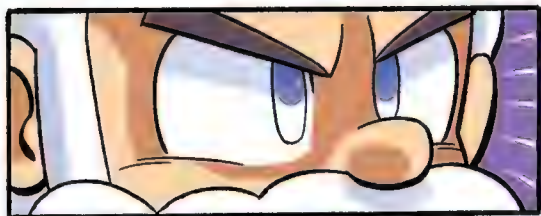
NOR WOULD HE DO SOMETHING SO BRAZEN AND PUT KALINKA AT RISK.

NO...SOMETHING IS WRONG WITH MY FRIEND.



BUT AFTER EVERYTHING DR. WILY HAS DONE, NO ONE IS GOING TO GIVE HIM A CHANCE! THEY'LL JUST ASSUME HE'S ANOTHER EVIL ROBOTICIST!

HIS ROBOT MASTERS WILL COME UNDER ATTACK. THERE'S NOBODY TO STAND BETWEEN THEM AND THE PEOPLE THEY MIGHT HURT...



LOOKS LIKE THE WORLD STILL NEEDS MEGA MAN AFTER ALL.

I'M SO SORRY, SON. SAVE MY FRIEND. SAVE HIS LIFE'S WORK. ONLY YOU CAN DO THIS.

I-I'LL TRY TO CALL KALINKA. SEE IF SHE KNOWS WHAT'S GOING ON...

A colorful illustration featuring Mega Man in his signature blue armor, standing prominently on the right with a determined expression. To his left is Rush, a red and purple dog-like robot with a large red helmet and a purple mask. In the lower-left corner, Dr. Light, an elderly man with a white beard and a white lab coat, stands next to a young girl with blonde hair in a red dress. On the right, Proto Man, a green and yellow robot with a yellow chest and a green visor, is shown in a dynamic, forward-leaning pose. The background consists of a large, circular, metallic structure with a grid pattern, suggesting a futuristic or industrial environment. Two speech bubbles are positioned at the top left, containing text.

YOU GOT
ACTIVATED AT
A CRAZY TIME,
EDDIE! WELCOME
TO THE TEAM!

NOW,
LET'S GO
SAVE THE
WORLD
AGAIN!

MEGA MAN'S NEXT ADVENTURE AWAITS!

BREAK MAN RETURNS NEXT TIME IN **MEGA MAN # 54!**
AND DON'T FORGET TO CATCH **ALL** THE PREVIOUS
ADVENTURES WITH THE **GRAPHIC NOVEL LIBRARY!**

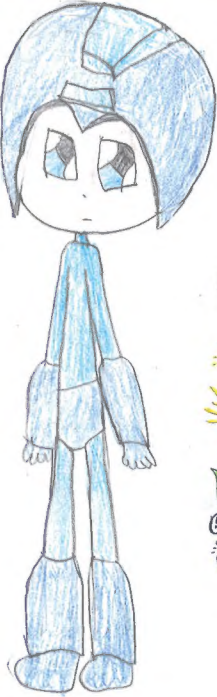
MEGA MAIL PRESENTS

MASTER WORKS

YOUR MEGA MAN FAN ART



Serean R. sent to MegaMan@ArchieComics.com



Karianne R. sent to MegaMan@ArchieComics.com



Timothy S. sent to MegaMan@ArchieComics.com



Ranindya P.P.N. sent to MegaMan@ArchieComics.com



Michael P. sent to MegaMan@ArchieComics.com

ART WILL NOT BE RETURNED. SPACE LIMITATIONS MAY REQUIRE SOME PRINTED ART TO BE EDITED. ALL YOUR LETTERS & FAN ART ARE APPRECIATED!

SHORT-CIRCUITS OR SIZZLING CIRCUITS! VIVA LAS MEGAS!

HEY KIDS!
IT'S TIME FOR...
LOST TALES OF THE LATE '90s

TODAY'S EPISODE:
SON OF THE RETURN OF THE CURSE OF THE LION MEN!

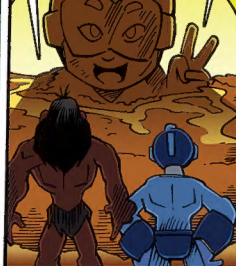
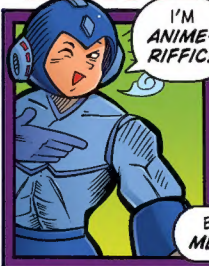
TAR, LEADER OF THE LION MEN HAS RETURNED TO SHOW MEGA MAN HIS VAST JUNGLE KINGDOM!

LOOK, LATE '90s **CARTOON MEGA MAN!** ALL THAT THE SKY TOUCHES IS MY KINGDOM!

WHAT ABOUT THAT SILLY LOOKIN' PLACE OVER THERE?

THAT IS MEGALAND, HOME OF EARLY '90s **CAPTAIN-N MEGA MAN!** YOU MUST NEVER GO THERE!

I HAVE GOT TO FIND SOME WAY OF ENACTING QUALITY CONTROL STANDARDS ONTO MY OFFSHOOTS...



SCRIPT & PENCILS: JONATHAN H. GRAY INKS: RICK BRYANT COLORS: ALEAH BAKER



MEGA MAIL

WRITE TO US @: MEGA-MAIL C/O
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MEGAMAN@ARCHIECOMICS.COM
OR TWEET AT US USING #MEGAMAIL!

...Aaand we're back! Didja miss us? We missed you, dearest readers! In fact, we missed you so much that we're dedicating this and EVERY letter column to YOU! Ain't that nice? Ain't that spiffy? Doesn't that make you wanna grin from ear to ear? Here's to you, our SUPER AMAZING and SUPER AWESOME fans of Mega Man! Y'all are the best!

Today we're going to change gears and focus on one very important letter from a mom whose kids also read Mega Man, just like you! Let's begin...

Dear 'Mega Mail,'
My son adores Mega Man and Sonic. He reads them for hours on end. So I have a very personal reason for writing this request: *can Roll please ditch the broom and dustpan?!?!?! I love how the Sonic comics contain characters of different kinds of ability and plenty of strong female characters, most of whom are not connected romantically to anyone. Thank you for that. My son can play Sonic with girls and they get to be powerful, too! So I'm even more confused how it is that after 50 issues and as many plot lines*

past and future, the only female character in the Mega Man series is still mopping up around the house. How hard would it be to issue her a red costume and a (different but cool) blaster? Please???? Thanks for reading.

A concerned mother,
Dana S. sent to
MegaMan@ArchieComics.com

It's not often we get a parent that writes to us, so thank you for that, Dana! Your comments did not fall on deaf ears and are greatly appreciated! Let's see if we can help ease some of your worries!

We have taken great strides to make sure that Roll is more than just a girl with a mop and is, instead, someone all readers can relate to as a person. She's Rock's support and confidante in times of need. She keeps her father, Dr. Light, from falling apart at the seams. And, as shown in Worlds Collide, she's the only one Proto Man will let fix his circuitry. Roll is the glue that holds her family together!

In fact, we have an entire issue

showcasing Roll's strengths in the Mega Man vol. 5 graphic novel, "Rock of Ages"! Be sure to check it out!

Beyond Roll, there are a few more female characters of note, like Dr. Noelle Lalinde, a genius in robotics on par with Dr. Light and Dr. Wily. She is also the creator of Quake Woman—also a hero just like Mega Man! There's also Rosalyn Krantz, the analytical policewoman partner of Gil Stern. Splash Woman keeps watch over the oceans and there's even the diabolical Madam Y, the no-nonsense, evil assistant to Mr. X! These ladies are strong individuals who are not tied to another character or defined by other characters. They are their own persons. We hope the ladies that we have in our book showcase a diverse range of people and personalities! We're always looking to incorporate great characters like them!

As usual, we appreciate everyone's feedback!

And that's that! We'll see y'all next issue! Until then, take care, gang!

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